



PATENT

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

January 21, 2004
Gilbert M. Aust et al. 1-21-2004
SIGNATURE DATE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Gilbert M. Aust et al.

Serial No. : 09/707,445
(Reissue of U.S. Patent
No. 5,540,706, issued
July 30, 1996)

Filing Date : November 6, 2000

For : SURGICAL INSTRUMENT

Group Art Unit : 3731

Examiner : Michael H. Thaler

Attorney Docket No. : A31-2047RE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RECEIVED

FEB 24 2004

AMENDMENT

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Introductory Comments

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated August 5, 2003, please reconsider the above-identified application in view of the following amendments.

STATUS OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 2, and 4 are pending and have been allowed.

Claims 8 and 9 have been canceled.

Claims 3, 5-7, 10, and 11 are pending and stand rejected.